

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOBILITY IMPACT MITIGATION
IN A PACKET DATA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and apparatus for mitigating the impact of lost data due to cell
5 reselection for mobile stations operating in packet data transfer mode is described. A
mobile station may perform cell reselection 2 to 4 times per minute when located in an
urban area, even if the mobile station remains stationary. A mobile station moving
through a communications network (100) may cross over various cell and routing area
boundaries. Further, a mobile station operating in push-to-talk mode may lose up to 8
10 seconds of data when reselecting a cell in a new routing area.

A serving cell transmits an information element (301, 303, 305) in which the
mobile station is informed whether cells in its neighbor list are in the same routing area as
its serving cell. If the radio link to the serving cell is acceptable then the mobile station
avoids reselection to cells outside its serving cell routing area.